

# APPENDIX 23

## Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) Planning Considerations

### Background of the EPCA inventory:

The President's comprehensive National Energy Policy issued in May 2001 directed the Secretary to "...examine land status and lease stipulation impediments to federal oil and gas leasing, and review and modify those where opportunities exist (consistent with the law, good environmental practice and balanced use of other resources).

Under this directive the Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management delivered to Congress an inventory of U.S. Oil and Gas resources in five western basins, as well as the extent and nature of any restrictions or impediments to their development. This report was prepared at the request of Congress under the provisions of the 2000 Energy Policy and Conservation Act.

In April 2003, the Bureau specified four EPCA Integration Principles as follows:

1. Environmental protection and energy production are both desirable and necessary objectives of sound land management practices and are not to be considered mutually exclusive priorities;
2. The BLM must ensure the appropriate amount of accessibility to energy resources necessary for the nation's security while recognizing that special and unique non-energy resources can be preserved;
3. Sound planning will weigh the relative resources values consistent with the Federal Land Management Policy Act;
4. All resource impacts, including those associated with energy development and transmission, will be mitigated to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation.

By July 29, 2003 the Bureau started to provide direction necessary to outline a strategy for integrating EPCA inventory results into land use plans.

### How Price Field Office RMP Considered EPCA Inventory Information and Concerns

The northern portion of the Price Field Office is located partially within the Uinta/Piceance Study Area and the southern portion of the Field Office is within the Paradox/San Juan Study Area, two of the seven areas identified as priority basins in the EPCA inventory. The Price Field Office conducted an extensive review of the inventory data regarding energy resources within the planning area.

That data is profiled in the Price RMP and consists primarily of two types of information as outlined in EPCA; 1) data on oil and gas resources (volumetric data), and 2) data on leasing constraints. This data is considered an important part of our administrative record for the RMP.

The EPCA volumetric data is portrayed in the Affected Environment section of the EIS. The BLM also considered many other sources of energy related data including USGS and UGS information, industry information as well as some academic work completed on oil and gas plays and areas with potential for occurrence of mineral resources. This information is part of the more detailed Mineral Potential Report prepared in support of the planning effort.

In addition to the Mineral Potential Report, BLM prepared a projected Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario to project environmental impacts through the next 15 year period. Development projections included in-depth reviews of potential for occurrence, past well production, current well production, and future potential for production.

BLM also conducted additional support work regarding energy related management and energy benefits in the Management Situation Analysis (MSA) as well as the Socio-Economic Baseline Report which characterize the significant beneficial impacts of energy and mineral development for the Field Office.

Also, as part of EPCA, a review was provided outlining existing leasing constraints within the focus areas. Data on proposed and existing leasing constraints specific to the proposed Price RMP are provided in the minerals section of the alternatives matrix (Chapter 2).